

Ag Report

In cooperation with

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United States Wage Rates Up 1 Percent

There were 1,197,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 survey week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States October 12-18, 2003 with Comparisons ¹

Farm Employment	October 6-12, 2002	July 6-12, 2003	October 12-18, 2003
		1,000	
Hired Workers	940	*943	891
150 Days or More	685	*680	626
149 Days or Less	255	*263	265
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	271	320	306
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,211	*1263	1,197
		Hours Per Week	
Hours Worked, Hired Workers	40.4	*39.8	40.2
		Dollars Per Hour	
Wage Rate for			
All Hired Workers ^{2,3}	8.95	8.88	9.05
Field & Livestock Combined	8.36	*8.26	8.47
Field	8.34	*8.17	8.42
Livestock	8.42	*8.57	8.64

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Alaska.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 12-18, 2003 ¹**

United States and Region	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock Combined	
Dollars Per Hour				
Northeast I	9.62	8.64	9.33	10.12
Northeast II	8.79	8.27	8.66	9.59
Appalachian I	8.19	7.92	8.10	8.66
Appalachian II	7.56	8.12	7.70	8.04
Southeast	7.90	7.84	7.88	8.26
Florida	8.55	7.95	8.48	9.53
Lake	9.25	9.11	9.20	9.70
Cornbelt I	8.76	9.67	8.91	9.34
Cornbelt II	8.62	9.83	8.87	9.30
Delta	7.01	7.15	7.05	7.48
Northern Plains	9.29	8.59	9.07	9.31
Southern Plains	7.12	7.70	7.39	8.01
Mountain I	7.80	8.05	7.93	8.24
Mountain II	8.11	8.12	8.11	8.97
Mountain III	7.16	8.73	7.63	8.18
Pacific	8.90	10.10	9.11	9.62
California	8.37	9.80	8.54	9.13
Hawaii ²	9.82		9.88	11.56
United States ³	8.42	8.64	8.47	9.05

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Insufficient data for livestock.

³ Excludes AK.

All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm by Region ¹

Region	October 12-18, 2003						
	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's						All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
North East	9.54	²	8.77	9.42	8.83	10.52	9.88
Appalachian	6.58	7.30	8.00	8.14	8.05	9.85	8.36
South East	7.74	9.03	8.13	9.07	8.58	9.39	8.98
Lake	9.76	8.17 ₂	9.06	9.50	8.87	10.57	9.70
Cornbelt	8.15		8.37	9.38	9.68	10.53	9.32
Delta	7.14	7.06	8.33	7.46	6.93₂	7.70	7.48
Northern Plains	8.18	7.15	8.20	8.93		10.08	9.31
Southern Plains	7.52	7.85	8.83	7.49	8.29	9.77	8.01
Mountain	8.30	9.62	7.33	8.17	7.91	8.41	8.41
Pacific	9.54	8.14	9.12	8.63	9.02	9.71	9.24
48 States	7.90	9.39	8.85	8.61	8.78	9.74	9.03

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Insufficient data.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to December 15,
by State and United States, Crop Years 2000 - 2003**

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Cotton				
Alabama	504,550	776,550	510,350	728,150
Arizona	519,200	515,000	471,750	368,600
Arkansas	1,398,450	1,775,000	1,596,450	1,720,800
California	2,092,950	1,836,650	1,627,800	1,452,300
Florida	90,500	131,950	60,500	113,700
Georgia	1,433,950	1,865,200	1,318,750	1,782,400
Kansas ¹				28,300
Louisiana	923,100	1,042,900	746,850	1,028,300
Mississippi	1,673,400	2,249,650	1,840,000	2,038,650
Missouri	501,650	664,750	564,950	655,800
New Mexico	57,750	61,350	46,000	48,400
North Carolina	1,168,250	1,355,650	711,450	931,950
Oklahoma	137,800	154,100	158,650	159,900
South Carolina	336,400	392,150	105,300	263,750
Tennessee	691,100	936,200	776,350	821,300
Texas	3,568,250	3,682,800	3,777,650	3,444,500
Virginia	135,350	166,500	79,650	99,650
United States	15,232,650	17,606,400	14,392,450	15,686,450

¹ December 15 estimates began in 2003.

**Mississippi Running Bales of Cotton Ginned Prior to December 1,
by Selected Counties and State, 2002 - 2003**

County	Running Bales Ginned		County	Running Bales Ginned	
	2002	2003		2002	2003
Bolivar	161,350	169,500	Holmes	106,250	126,400
Coahoma	168,600	191,050	Other Counties	65,300	84,350
Quitman	61,850	78,800	District 50	171,550	210,750
Tallahatchie	57,900	47,600			
Tunica	79,350	88,900	District 70	43,100	70,400
District 10	529,050	575,850			
			Other Districts	68,000	67,450
Calhoun	38,050	50,150			
Panola	35,850	43,800			
Other Counties	82,150	95,600			
District 20	156,050	189,550			
Humphreys	78,400	77,650			
Leflore	142,900	178,450			
Sharkey	68,150	86,750			
Sunflower	112,900	153,000			
Washington	134,200	150,150			
Yazoo	187,550	223,700			
District 40	724,100	869,700	State Total	1,691,850	1,983,700

Chicken Eggs in Incubators: by Region and United States, December 1, 2002 - 2003

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2003/2002
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
North Atlantic	11,458	12,315	107	4,513	5,249	116
East North Central	7,345	8,206	112	5,479	7,763	142
West North Central	19,256	22,510	117	6,133	8,173	133
South Atlantic	229,289	229,778	100	3,337	2,152	64
South Central	328,671	338,851	103	5,045	5,314	105
West	23,570	24,751	105	4,616	4,670	101
United States	619,589	636,411	103	29,123	33,321	114

Layers and Eggs Production, by Selected States and United States, November 2002 - 2003

State	All Layers on Hand ¹		Table Eggs ²		Hatching Eggs ²	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000			Million Eggs		
Alabama	9,692	9,364	52	48	125	130
Arkansas	14,645	14,637	105	97	167	179
Florida	10,806	11,019	223	236	11	9
Georgia	20,122	20,499	248	256	173	166
Mississippi	6,726	6,901	43	44	87	88
North Carolina	10,768	10,732	81	79	126	126
Oklahoma	4,138	4,103	46	44	31	32
South Carolina	5,255	5,402	96	99	17	19
Virginia	3,035	3,097	31	27	31	33
United States	337,808	336,052	6,204	6,251	1,020	1,024

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

² Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched, by Selected States and United States, November 2002 - 2003

State	November			January-November		
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2003/2002
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
Alabama	93,835	96,042	102	1,143,588	1,126,229	98
Arkansas	96,547	102,438	106	1,178,751	1,197,061	102
Florida	7,999	4,781	60	91,156	57,319	63
Georgia	100,472	106,252	106	1,226,767	1,247,372	102
Kentucky	20,732	21,814	105	255,973	261,763	102
Mississippi	61,013	62,361	102	744,094	755,168	101
North Carolina	60,877	61,682	101	729,445	708,451	97
Texas	50,197	48,962	98	597,674	579,119	97
United States	690,052	707,619	103	8,325,125	8,299,056	100

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
by Selected States and United States, October 2002 - 2003**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Alabama	90,511	92,141	464,148	482,955	5.13	5.24
Arkansas	106,458	106,709	534,313	538,025	5.02	5.04
Florida	11,241	10,567	60,966	58,787	5.42	5.56
Georgia	113,094	114,255	566,712	586,012	5.01	5.13
Kentucky	22,974	20,142	121,525	116,956	5.29	5.81
Louisiana	16,560	16,455	81,574	84,775	4.93	5.15
Mississippi	66,710	70,736	359,803	377,408	5.39	5.34
Missouri	34,803	36,344	163,745	170,170	4.70	4.68
North Carolina	62,213	63,250	378,974	387,857	6.09	6.13
South Carolina	21,417	21,862	120,699	129,888	5.64	5.94
Tennessee	20,822	19,438	100,881	102,625	4.83	5.28
Texas	56,919	58,293	279,210	287,918	4.91	4.94
Virginia	29,556	29,878	149,115	151,634	5.05	5.08
United States	773,084	777,869	3,999,930	4,096,766	5.17	5.27

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
by Selected States and United States, October 2002 - 2003**

State	Total Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent ²	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Percent	
Alabama	344,653	361,705	3,899	3,475	0.93	0.80
Arkansas	386,382	391,591	4,061	3,554	0.84	0.73
Florida	43,047	40,579	726	576	1.32	1.09
Georgia	416,745	428,568	3,518	3,825	0.69	0.73
Kentucky	90,365	82,976	829	668	0.76	0.63
Louisiana	59,074	62,662	336	274	0.46	0.36
Mississippi	266,530	280,956	2,108	3,279	0.65	0.97
Missouri	120,261	125,821	966	1,177	0.66	0.77
North Carolina	292,340	306,036	3,410	3,607	1.00	1.03
South Carolina	89,237	95,897	744	651	0.68	0.56
Tennessee	69,053	73,950	645	1,053	0.71	1.14
Texas	217,397	223,419	1,774	1,711	0.71	0.66
Virginia	107,177	110,635	1,298	1,169	0.97	0.86
United States	2,953,345	3,035,112	30,750	31,334	0.85	0.85

¹ Ready-to-cook weights

² Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

United States Catfish: Sales, Average Price and Ending Inventory, November 2002 - 2003

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish	3,031	2,798	1.24	1.40	183	169
Fillets ¹	4,447	5,187	2.49	2.50	407	505
Other ²	1,165	1,138	1.55	1.60	105	121
Total Fresh	8,643	9,123	1.93	2.05	695	795
Frozen						
Whole Fish	1,101	1,093	1.87	1.87	902	862
Fillets ¹	9,800	9,354	2.38	2.41	7,228	8,365
Other ²	4,395	3,846	1.54	1.38	2,848	2,955
Total Frozen	15,296	14,293	2.10	2.09	10,978	12,182
Total Fresh & Frozen	23,939	23,416	2.04	2.08	11,673	12,977

United States Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed, Prices Paid to Producers by Major Processors, and United States Imports, 2002 - 2003

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers ¹		Imports of Catfish ²	
	Monthly		Cumulative					
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
January	52,551	55,523	52,551	55,523	.549	.529	1,037	1,322
February	52,856	55,461	105,407	110,984	.555	.544	1,048	260
March	58,340	65,007	163,747	175,991	.565	.585	414	332
April	50,694	57,105	214,441	233,096	.561	.630	618	272
May	52,902	58,424	267,343	291,520	.574	.618	1,491	703
June	49,450	52,441	316,793	343,961	.588	.586	982	893
July	52,363	54,089	369,156	398,050	.590	.564	957	435
August	54,383	54,153	423,539	452,203	.582	.552	632	135
September	53,366	51,885	476,905	504,088	.576	.560	670	150
October	56,576	57,652	533,481	561,740	.568	.567	572	384
November	50,072	51,246	583,553	612,986	.560	.610	874	
December	47,048		630,601		.544		906	

¹ Price for fish delivered to processing plant door. Price excludes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

² Pounds of frozen boneless fillets. Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Commercial Red Meat Production: By Selected State and United States
November 2003 with Comparisons ¹

State	November 2002	October 2003	November 2003	November 2003 as % of ²	
				November 2002	October 2003
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Alabama	3.5	3.6	3.3	96	93
Arkansas	6.4	5.9	5.6	87	94
Florida	5.7	5.6	5.1	91	93
Georgia	16.8	19.9	15.7	94	79
Kentucky	41.7	48.0	46.2	111	96
Louisiana	1.5	1.5	1.2	78	79
Mississippi	25.2	29.1	24.3	96	83
Missouri	37.7	42.2	37.8	100	90
North Carolina	178.0	211.8	186.0	104	88
Oklahoma	86.9	92.8	83.7	96	90
South Carolina	20.3	22.4	19.4	96	87
Tennessee	20.7	25.1	19.1	93	76
Texas	387.2	407.4	327.3	85	80
Virginia	70.3	72.8	65.8	94	90
United States	3,907.1	*4,154.4	3,526.0	90	85

* Revised.

¹ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton.

² Percentages based on unrounded data.



Corn and Sorghum: Marketing Year Average Prices Received,
by Selected States and United States, 2001 - 2002

State	Corn		Sorghum	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Dollars Per Bushel		Dollars Per Cwt.	
Alabama	2.35	2.72	3.75	4.10
Arkansas	2.02	2.43	3.56	4.40
Georgia	2.32	2.70	3.30	4.64
Kentucky	2.08	2.58	3.42	4.68
Louisiana	2.20	2.40	3.75	4.30
Mississippi	1.99	2.33	3.70	4.24
Missouri	1.96	2.45	3.46	4.22
North Carolina	2.36	2.89	3.75	4.40
Oklahoma	2.10	2.45	3.29	4.11
South Carolina	2.20	2.70	3.48	4.11
Tennessee	2.06	2.58	3.88	4.78
Texas	2.29	2.57	3.64	4.18
Virginia	2.14	2.73	3.00	3.91
United States	1.97	2.32	3.46	4.14